

# National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.

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Reverend Dr. Stephen J. Thurston, *President*



### *The Balm In Gilead National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS*

*Just as mass communication permeates all of our lives, so does the devastating affects of AIDS, as it knows no boundaries socially, economically, or politically. The drum beat of this disease resounds loudly from coast to coast, from sea to shinning sea.*

*Children come into the world with AIDS. Children are orphaned because their parents have died from AIDS-----innocence so crudely lost. What do we tell the children?*

*I know the prayers of the righteous are still being heard by the Lord, and it behooves all of us to use our voices to cry loudly for the healing of those who are presently struggling to survive, and those whose lifestyle will surely lead to them become victims of AIDS. Our individual and collective prayers are needed, as we petition the Lord on the behalf of those who are coping with AIDS and for those who have lost all hope.*

*If our nuclear family has not been visited by AIDS, it's almost a given that our extended family has in one way or another added AIDS to its roster of family woes. As we share in this special week of prayer that's been designated by The Balm In Gilead, we will do so with great expectations, knowing that there is nothing too hard for our God. Let us then get up off our knees and do what we can humanly to make a difference.*

*Reverend Dr. Stephen J. Thurston, President  
National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. International*